

# Fourth Sunday of Advent



Think of a time when you received news too far beyond your understanding or belief. Good news or bad, it doesn't matter. Was disbelief part of your response? No way. Couldn't be. Seriously? If so, you are in good company. This was Mary's response. At the Annunciation she was much perplexed, and she pondered. She offers us a great example of how we can welcome our own bewilderment. Ponder. Pause. Question.

And this is only what we hear in the text itself, what she did on the outside. Imagine what might have been swirling around in her heart and in her head. Fear? Shame? Judgment? I wonder how long it took to go from perplexed to yes. We know after her "yes" she went, in haste, to her kinswoman Elizabeth for confirmation.

If (as we say we believe) the Word of God is living and active in our midst, what can Mary's response to God's invitation offer us and our moments of pondering and questioning?

Responding in faith to life's challenges and invitations calls us to be counter-cultural. In times of potential divisions and challenge, I pray for the wisdom to be like Mary – to take time to ponder, pause and pray my way to an answer. Our tradition calls it contemplation. I call it invaluable. From throughout the Scriptures, we have God's whole-hearted promise of fidelity.

*Susan Kidd, CND; Charlottetown, PE*

**First Reading:** 2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

**Responsorial Psalm:**

*Forever I will sing  
of your steadfast love, O Lord.*

**Second Reading:** Romans 16.25-27

**Gospel:** Luke 1.26-38

## Rosary Intention for December

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



On the fourth week of Advent, we light the last purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the **Angel's Candle**, symbolizes peace and reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

## Confession

Sacrament of Reconciliation is still available BY APPOINTMENT ONLY from Monday to Wednesday of this week. If you have access to the Internet, please register through our parish website. If you don't have access to the Internet, you may call the parish office at (905) 848-2420 and we will book an appointment for you. Confession takes place in the Catechetical Centre. Masks are mandatory.

## Christmas Wafers – Opłátky

Blessed Christmas Wafers are available in the parish office. If the door is locked, please ring the doorbell. **Each large pack** contains 3 big wafers and 2 small wafers. Cost is \$3.00. **Each small pack** contains 4 small wafers. Cost is \$1.50.

## Holiday Mass Schedule

### THU. DEC. 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

8:00 p.m. – in Polish  
10:00 p.m. – in English  
12:00 midnight – in Polish

### FRI. DEC. 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 a.m. – in Polish  
9:30 a.m. – in English  
11:00 a.m. – in Polish  
1:00 p.m. – in Polish  
7:00 p.m. – in Polish

### SAT. DEC. 26 – MASS (St. Stephen)

8:00 a.m. – in Polish  
9:30 a.m. – in English  
11:00 a.m. – in Polish  
7:00 p.m. – in Polish

### SUN. DEC. 27 – MASS (The Holy Family)

8:00 a.m. – in Polish  
9:30 a.m. – in English  
11:00 a.m. – in Polish  
1:00 p.m. – in Polish  
2:30 p.m. – in Polish  
6:00 p.m. – Christmas Concert

## Merry Christmas!

As you prepare for and celebrate Christ's birth, may your heart be filled with peace, joy, and God's unending love. Merry Christmas to all parishioners!

## Christmas Concert

Kolbe Youth is inviting all parishioners to a virtual Christmas Concert on **December 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.** Please tune in through the parish TV at [www.kolbe.ca](http://www.kolbe.ca).

## An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already here, and I unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from You. ~St. Alphonsus Liguori

## Holiday Office Hours

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – 9 a.m. to 12 noon  
Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – closed  
Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – closed

Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup> – closed  
Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup> – 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – 9 a.m. to 12 noon  
Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> – closed  
Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9 a.m. to 12 noon

## Thank you for the Poinsettias



Thank you to all our wonderful parishioners who so generously donated poinsettias for the Christmas Manger. We have received close to 70 beautiful plants. Thank you so much for your generosity.

## Food Drive

Once again, **Knights of Columbus** are organizing an annual food drive in support of those in need in our local community. Last chance to drop off non-perishable food items is this **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**. The following are in high demand: rice, pasta, coffee, and all kinds of canned goods (meat, soup, vegetables, fruits). **No expired food, please!** All goods can be dropped off inside the entrance to the church.

## Honey

Kolbe Youth has some delicious light honey for sale. If you would like to purchase a 1kg jar at \$10, please call the parish office.

## Offertory Envelopes for 2021

Offertory envelopes for 2021 are available for pick-up in the parish hall. The church and the parish hall are open on weekdays from approximately 9 o'clock in the morning until approximately 6:00 p.m.

## Sunday Collection

We are very grateful to our parishioners who regularly bring their Sunday collection. The parish must function despite the crisis and continue to pay expenses on regular basis. Sunday collection can be placed in a secure box found by the parish office door. Donations can also be made online at [www.kolbe.ca](http://www.kolbe.ca) by clicking on *Donate Now* and choosing *St. Maximilian Kolbe Church* from the list of parishes.

**Thank you for your understanding and continued support.  
May God Bless you.**

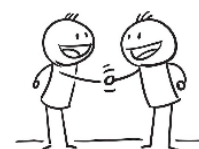
## Food for Madagascar

Friends of the Missions (MAMI) has organized two initiatives to help feed children in Madagascar: Food Parcels and Hot Meals. Special envelopes are available near the entrance to the church and the parish office. A completed submission form (found inside the envelope) and your donation can be deposited into any of the collection boxes in our parish. More information can be found on posters in the main entrance to the church. Also, Fr. Adam Filas spoke about this initiative at the Advent Retreat. Thank you for supporting children in Madagascar. God bless!

## Change for Life Bottles

Change for Life Bottles in support of Pro-Life will not be collected in December as originally scheduled. However, there is a collection box beside the Relics Altar where you can drop off your collection bottle. Thank you for your generous support.

## Thank You to Our Sponsors



Each year, various businesses and individuals advertise their services in our parish bulletin. By doing so, they offset the printing cost of the bulletin. We thank them for their continued support and encourage our parishioners to support these fine businesses and individuals.

## Marriage and Family Counselling

Free marriage and family counselling is available at our parish. If your family needs guidance, please call (647) 677-1142 and leave your name and phone number. A qualified counsellor will call you to schedule a meeting.

## 10 People in the Church

Please note that we are only allowed to have 10 people in church at one time. As you enter the church foyer, you'll notice a large number indicating the number of people presently in the church. If the number is less than 10, turn the page and go in. If the number is already at 10, please wait for someone to leave the church. As you leave the church, turn the page back. This way we'll be able to keep track of the number of individuals inside the church building. Thank you for your cooperation.

## COVID-19 and Our Parish

Recognizing the health and safety measures announced by the Province of Ontario on November 20, 2020, Cardinal Thomas Collins directed parishes to implement the following in the Toronto and Peel regions:

- By Monday, November 23, 2020, parishes must restrict attendance inside the church to 10 people, including priests hearing confessions or a staff member/volunteer required to monitor capacity restrictions. Due to these measures, public Masses must be temporarily cancelled. Priests are asked to celebrate private Mass daily for the intentions of parishioners and for those suffering from COVID-19.

- Churches, wherever possible and according to the judgement of the pastor, are encouraged to remain open for private prayer and for the faithful to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Weddings, funerals and baptisms (without Mass) are restricted to 10 persons, including those who are involved in ministry (priest, cantor, etc.).

- Parishioners are encouraged to view online/livestream/televized Masses. A full list is available at [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)
- No meetings should take place in parish halls or other church spaces at this time. The only exception would be those deemed as essential services.

- Parish offices are closed to the public; limited essential appointments only.

## Mass Intentions

**There are no more individual Mass intentions available for the year 2021.** Intentions for Wednesday evening Mass should be submitted by phone.

## 2021 Calendars

Religious calendars highlighting the life and missionary work of Brother Antoni Kowalczyk are available for purchase at the parish office at \$5 each. Exact change, please.

**Parish Website**  
[www.kolbe.ca](http://www.kolbe.ca)

## Mass Intentions

### MONDAY, December 21<sup>st</sup>

**St. Peter Canisius**

8<sup>00</sup> † Aleksander Wysoczanski  
† Anna Bzdyk (2<sup>nd</sup> anniv.)  
19<sup>00</sup> † Alina Kupczyk  
† Wladyslawa Robak

### TUESDAY, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

8<sup>00</sup> † Weronika, Stanislaw, and Antoni Klisowski  
† Zbigniew Burek (5<sup>th</sup> anniv.)  
19<sup>00</sup> † Danuta Pisarek (1<sup>st</sup> anniv.)  
○ For God's blessing and health for all priests who worked in our parish in the past year – parish staff

### WEDNESDAY, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

**St. John of Kanty**

8<sup>00</sup> ○ In thanksgiving for the past year and for God's grace for the Swierzbinski family  
† Genowefa & Jozef Skos, and Kazimierz and Jozef Skos  
† Henryk Zmudka (6<sup>th</sup> anniv.)  
19<sup>00</sup> Group intentions

### THURSDAY, December 24<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Eve**

8<sup>00</sup> ○ For God's continued blessing for Ewa  
20<sup>00</sup> ○ For Parishioners and Benefactors  
22<sup>00</sup> † Eddie Niedziela  
† Krystyna Siemiginowski (30<sup>th</sup> anniv.)  
24<sup>00</sup> ○ For God's blessing for the Olejek family  
† Aleksandra & Stanislaw

### FRIDAY, December 25<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas – The Nativity of the Lord**

8<sup>00</sup> † Szczepan Bryk  
9<sup>30</sup> † Boleslaw Ulinski  
11<sup>00</sup> ○ For Parishioners and Benefactors  
13<sup>00</sup> ○ For God's blessing and health for Nicole and Nicolas  
† Ryszard Zebrowski  
19<sup>00</sup> † Kazimiera Bartoszek

### SATURDAY, December 26<sup>th</sup>

**St. Stephen**

8<sup>00</sup> ○ In thanksgiving for all graces received and for God's continued blessing for the Jaganow family  
9<sup>30</sup> † Kazimierz Mieczkowski  
11<sup>00</sup> ○ In thanksgiving for Beata & Zbigniew Serwin on their 39<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
† Danuta Rudnik (1<sup>st</sup> anniv.)  
19<sup>00</sup> † Krystyna Siemiginowski (30<sup>th</sup> anniv.)  
† Marian Trychta (6<sup>th</sup> anniv.)

### SUNDAY, December 27<sup>th</sup>

**The Holy Family**

8<sup>00</sup> † Roman and Edward Calko  
9<sup>30</sup> ○ In thanksgiving for Anna & Artur on their 17<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
11<sup>00</sup> ○ For Parishioners and Benefactors  
13<sup>00</sup> † Wanda & Zdzislaw Romanowski  
14<sup>30</sup> ○ For God's grace and blessing for all families of the Domestic Church  
○ For God's blessing for all families in our parish – Marriage and Family Counselling